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Trudeau blamed for KGB's 20-year foothold in Canada

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OTTAWA — "For 20 years the KGB has had a happy hunting ground in Canada," says Lubor Zink, a Czechoslovakian writer who has lived in Canada since the 1950s.

Mr. Zink is an expert on Soviet espionage and has been tracking the increasing activities of East bloc agents in Canada over the past three decades.

He lays much of the blame for Canada's penetration by Soviet intelligence to a lax environment fostered by former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau — a perspective shared by many officials here and in Washington.

As a student, Mr. Trudeau was a supporter of Marxist causes. During a visit to Cuba at the time Moscow's Cuban military proxies were being introduced into Africa, Mr. Trudeau shouted before thousands of Cubans, "Viva Castro, Viva Cuba!"

Mr. Trudeau, who governed Canada for 16 years and resigned last year, refused to deal effectively with the Soviet threat, Mr. Zink and other intelligence sources said.

When Victor Tsekovisky, a trade official at the Soviet consulate in Montreal, and Anatoly Solousov, an official with the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization, were expelled from Canada in 1983 for trying to steal government secrets, the Trudeau administration played down the incident to avoid "retaliation directed at Canadians in the Soviet Union," a Trudeau official said at the time.

Mr. Zink noted that Mr. Trudeau signed a friendship treaty with the Soviets, tried to reduce Canada's

role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and tried to justify the Polish government's declaration of martial law by saying that it might have been necessary to prevent violence.

Mr. Trudeau, in a 1980 press conference, said of the friendship treaty, "If I were to visit the U.S., or something, or see a leader of some other country, I'd inform the Russian ambassador of the discussions."

Mr. Trudeau's government also prosecuted a Canadian newspaper

for printing a story about a secret document on KGB activities that the government wanted to suppress to avoid hurting relations with the Soviets.

John Starnes, the first civilian director of the RCMP counterintelligence service, said, "There is little evidence ... that a tough stance on Soviet espionage activities ever seriously damaged our relations with Russia."

Although Soviet influence in Canada has been documented for decades, Mr. Trudeau's view is still shared by many Canadians.

Canada's first exposure to Soviet espionage activities was almost a Keystone Cops affair.

When Igor Gouzenko walked out of the Soviet Embassy laden with Russian secrets, he tried to get someone to believe that the Soviets were running a spy ring out of Ottawa.

The minister of justice refused to see him; Prime Minister Mackenzie King was embarrassed by the affair. And one Ottawa news organization refused to print his story, thinking he was mentally unbalanced.

But Canadian-born British spymaster William Stephenson, who was in Canada at the time, persuaded officials to listen to Mr. Gouzenko and his revelations of a Soviet espionage ring in Canada's bureaucracy.

With Mr. Stephenson's guidance, British security officers and FBI agents unraveled Mr. Gouzenko's mystery.

The Gouzenko papers are credited with helping launch the Cold War because they revealed a wide-

spread spy ring in North America and Soviet intentions of worldwide domination, according to many political observers.

The Soviets were "creating in democratic countries, including Canada, a fifth column" to establish a "communist dictatorship throughout the world," Mr. Gouzenko warned in papers declassified by the Canadian government earlier this year.

By the time all of the indictments were handed up, 11 people, including

a member of Parliament and a noted British physicist, had gone to jail as a result of Mr. Gouzenko's revelations.

The physicist, Allan Nunn May, who worked with Canada's National Research Council, was convicted of selling a sample of enriched uranium to the Soviets. He received \$200 and two bottles of whiskey. The uranium he gave the Soviets helped them develop their first atom bomb.

Mr. Gouzenko died of a heart attack in 1982.

In a second spy episode that rocked Canada, a 59-year-old professor at Quebec's Laval University was sentenced to 10 years in a British prison for selling secrets to the Soviets while he was a NATO economist from 1956 to 1961.

Hugh Hambleton confessed during his 1982 trial that he had operated as a Soviet spy for nearly 20 years in several countries. But he appears to be keeping most of his secrets to himself.

What is known about Mr. Hambleton's exploits include his informing the Soviets that Israel was producing material for nuclear bombs in 1970.

Mr. Hambleton, who served the Canadian government in Haiti, also operated for the Soviets in the Caribbean and South America, according to his boyhood friend, Leo Heaps.

In a new book, the Toronto writer said his old friend "knows enough to blow the Soviets sky high."

Mr. Heaps and others who have investigated the Hambleton affair wonder why the English and not the Canadians prosecuted him.

Canada's Justice Department said they did not have enough evidence against Mr. Hambleton. But RCMP officials worked closely with British authorities to charge him under Britain's Official Secrets Act.

More recently, another spy scandal hit the news.

The infamous "Long Knife," a codename for ex-RCMP official James Morrison, is fighting government attempts to charge him for selling information to the Soviets 27 years ago.

Mr. Morrison admitted his guilt after six days of intense grilling at RCMP headquarters in Ottawa in